

# REGULATORY FOCUS BULLETIN

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FILE TOPIC: Administration

NOTE: "FYI is an informational and educational service of the Regulatory Focus Committee to assist you in finding the resources for answers to questions regarding issues not regulated by the Division of Facility Services. The source of the information is included for your reference.

Do health care workers that have been vaccinated for Hepatitis need to be titer-tested post vaccination?

Yes. Health care workers must be titer tested 30-60 days after finishing the Hepatitis B vaccination series. If the test shows they responded then they never have to be titer tested again, even if they have a needle stick, because once positive always protected. There is no need to titer test people who had completed the vaccines more than 6 months ago as people's titers naturally wane over time and the results would be unreliable. The optimal time for determining immune response to the vaccine is one to two months after the third dose.

Per the OSHA document CPL 2-2.69, Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens, Nov 27, 2001 the following applies to Hepatitis B serologic testing of vaccinated employees. Paragraph (f)(1)(ii)(D). This paragraph takes into consideration the changing nature of medical treatment relating to Hepatitis B. The CDC is the US Public Health Service (USPHS) agency responsible for issuing guidelines and making recommendations regarding infectious agents. OSHA requires employers to follow the CDC guidelines current at the time of the evaluation or procedure. Copies of the current guidelines and other CDC documents can be obtained on CDC's Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/>. The hepatitis B vaccination must be given in the standard dose and through the standard routes of administration as recommended in the USPHS/CDC Guidelines. The most current CDC guideline regarding Hepatitis B is the Updated US Public Health Service Guidelines for the Management of HBV, HCV, and HIV and recommendations for Postexposure Prophylaxis published in the MMWR, Vol 50, No RR-11, June 29, 2001. (Attached as App E) It states that employees who have ongoing contact with patients or blood and are at ongoing risk for percutaneous injuries are to be tested for antibody to Hepatitis B at the completion of the vaccination series and must be revaccinated with a second three-dose vaccine series and retested, unless they are HbsAg-positive (infected). Non-responders must be medically evaluated.

Source: UNC School of Medicine- Infectious Disease etc.